

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 10, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Madam Secretary,

I write to bring to your attention the competitive grant application submitted by the Regional Transportation Improvement Project (RTIP) for funding in the FY19 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program.

I understand that RTIP is a public agency serving Carroll, Columbiana and Stark counties that seeks funding for the extension of a critical US 30/Lincoln Highway expressway segment in Stark County from Trump Avenue to State Route 44. Extending the US 30 expressway would improve safety, particularly for trucks, as it redirects these vehicles from the curves and tight turns of the existing two-lane Route 30.

The RTIP project would benefit rural counties in Appalachia by improving highway access for transportation for many industries including the growing Marcellus and Utica shale regions. Further, it would generate jobs for local residents along the route with the potential for commercial and industrial business as well as residential development.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my Grant Coordinator, Avery Pierson, at (202) 224-3353. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
United States Senator